

Appl. No. : 09/738,372
Filed : December 15, 2000

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected all of the pending claims as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,723,248 issued to Harter et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. While patent 4,723,248 does indeed show a mode locked laser which includes a power limiter, nothing in that patent discloses or suggests that the power limiter should be a two photon absorber. In fact, the characteristics of the power limiter are disclosed in great detail beginning at Col. 2, line 68 and continuing through Col. 3, line 51. No mention is made of two photon absorption or of suppression of Q-switching to generate cw mode-locked operation. In fact, at Col. 2, lines 58-66, the patent suggest that the power limiter can be used, alternatively, in either a cw laser or a pulsed- or Q-switched-laser.

The Examiner argues that the Applicants have "admitted" that the limiter is also the two photon absorber. While this is true with regard to the specification of the present invention, it does not follow that every power limiter is a two photon absorber, and it certainly does not follow that the power limiter of the cited patent is a two photon absorber.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 

James B. Bear
Registration No. 25221
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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